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Global Warming

## Introduction

Global Warming is an economic issue through out the world. The issue of Global warming was discovered in 1880's in the United Kingdom. Global Warming is a complex phenomenon, which has affected the climate of earth to a great extent. Global Warming refers to the change in climate conditions which increases the average temperature of the atmosphere of global surface air, oceans, sea level, and melting level of the ice and snow (Global Warming: A chilling Perspective, 2011). The key points discussed in this essay are the definition of global warming and the time when the global warming began. The main reason of global warming is emission of greenhouse gases in excessive quantity, burning of oil and gases due to the transportation vehicles, deforestation, and increase in population. The effects of global warming on the world are also discussed in this essay politically and socially (Morgan, 477). The effects of global warming are raising the sea levels, increasing ice melting, excessive high temperature or excessive winter, droughts and heat waves, diseases, etc. Further, there is an argument in this essay that global warming is an economic issue and it has resulted into rising prices of food, rising level of sea, loss of wildlife, storms and damages (Smith, 117). Two groups have argued on this topic and finally, there is a conclusive statement in which all the findings are summarized.

## Global Warming Definition

The term global warming refers to a considerable change in earth's climate. This climate change results into an increase in the average temperature of the atmosphere. Global warming is a complex phenomenon which has many effects on the climate. The term global warming includes the increase in fair temperature of global surface, air and oceans, melting of ice and snows, and average rising level of the sea. It is a small, but significant and considerable change in the climate (Global Warming: Definition, 2010). Global Warming describes what actually happens when the average temperature of the earth increases. Due to

this global warming, some places get warmer and drier while other places experience an unpleasant winter due to the shift in the sea level. Global warming started before the industrial revolution. Economists believed that due to this, the industrialization carbon dioxide has increased in the earth's atmosphere. Global warming has been discovered by the scientists in 1880's (Courtney, 1999). It was an assumption that due to the burning of fossil fuels, Carbon Dioxide increased in the air and this was the reason of global warming. Mrs. Thatcher, the former Prime Minister of UK announced that Global Warming is a scientific issue, which was caused by nuclear weapon program, coal-fired power, and by burning of fossil fuels (Jessa, 2010).

#### Causes of Global Warming

Global Warming is caused by many direct and indirect reasons. Sometimes, Greenhouse gas occurs naturally and sometimes, it is man-made. People argue that the Greenhouse gas emitted into the atmosphere of the Earth in the excessive quantity is the main reason of Global Warming (Cause and effect for global warming, 2007). Greenhouse gases include a number of gases, such as Carbon Dioxide, Methane, nitrous oxide, chlorofluorocarbons, water vapor etc. Without the existence of naturally occurring Greenhouse gases, the temperature of the Earth would be too cold for all the living beings. The naturally occurring gases are very essential to maintain the temperature of the Earth at livable levels (Schmandt, 29). If these gases are emitted in an excessive amount, then it may result into considerably warm temperature of the Earth. The excessive Greenhouse gases may cause drastic changes in weather, patterns of the wind or severe and frequent storms (The Causes of Global Warming, 2011). It is scientifically proved that the naturally occurring Greenhouse gases remain constant in the atmosphere for several years; but, the Greenhouse gases generated by human beings have increased drastically in past years. The main greenhouse gases generated by human beings are burning of fossil fuels, like oil and gas in

daily consumption, excessive Carbon Dioxide due to deforestation (Causes of Global Warming, 2008), burning of coal and natural gases, emission of gases used in refrigerators, cooling and manufacturing appliances, gases emitted from landfills and farming, such as Methane, gases like Chlorofluorocarbons, etc. Carbon Dioxide is emitted in a great extent due to continuous use of oil and gases in the motor vehicles and machinery (White, 2011). These gases are highly responsible for the increased temperature in the twentieth century. Solar variation and volcanoes are the result of pollution and warmth emitted from vehicles. Due to the deforestation of trees, Carbon Dioxide has increased in the atmosphere and this has resulted into Global Warming. Overall 25 to 30 percent of the gases released into the atmosphere are a result of deforestation (Hufbauer, 23). The more is the population more will be the food required, more will be a need of means of transportation. It means more emission of Methane due to the burning of fossil fuels and more agriculture. Carbon Dioxide emitted by human beings in the breathing process also creates global warming because the trees, which convert Carbon Dioxide into Oxygen, are also being destroyed (Leroux, 53). These points are argued by various scientific societies and National Academies of Sciences of Industrialized Countries. These gases act like Greenhouse around the Earth. Greenhouse means that these gases only allow entering heat from the Sun but do not allow escaping this heat into the space. This heat can not be trapped in the atmosphere without the green houses, as a result of this Earth would be extremely cold (Ichikawa 117).

#### Effect of global warming on the world politically

The British government has been among the worlds most acutely aware of global warming potential consequences. In contrast to the United States, where the George W. Bush administration was doing its best to eliminate the problem out of public consciousness at the turn of the millennium; British officialdom sounded sharp and frequent warnings. "In recent years more and more people have accepted that climate change is happening and will affect

the lives of our children and grandchildren. I fear we need to start worrying about ourselves as well,” said Margaret Beckett, British Environment, Food and Rural Affairs secretary (Schmandt, 46). Also, unlike the U.S. Federal government, political leaders in Britain have long been international leaders in greenhouse diplomacy. In Great Britain, the London tabloids often feast on fears of weather gone wild (The effects of Global Warming, 2009). The British government is acutely aware of climate changes perils, a subject of many reports that argue, for example, sizable parts of London may be abandoned to rising seas within a century. It seems worth adding that the UK government has done serious contingency planning for severe consequences of global warming (20 Deadliest Effects of Global Warming, 2011). In February 2001, the U K Ministry of Defense warned that future wars were likely as a result of global warming. While, a severe shortage of fresh water supplies by 2025 could also trigger severe conflict. The MOD was also concerned that growing natural catastrophe in the UK would put additional demands on the U K armed forces. The UN has also warned that growing water shortages would lead to future wars.

#### Effect of global warming on the world socially

The recent explosion of public discourse on climate change and sea level rise and its coverage in the news media may be attributed to the rebirth of environmentalism, which acted as a catalyst for a host of overlapping environmental agenda, such as the global warming. Because of the failure of the international community to reach meaningful agreements to curb emission of Greenhouse gases, the calls for alternative measures to mitigate global warming impacts have gained prominence in public discourse (Sanchez, 2011.). The concept of climate justice, perhaps derived from a more specific concept of environmental justice or social justice is a socially constructed frame, which lays out a set of claims concerning the physical and socio economic impacts of global warming and sea-level rise. More specifically, it demands that those who contributed most to the adverse

consequences of global warming and climate change should take the responsibility of mitigating these adverse impacts, by the same token, countries that have contributed the least amount of pollution-causing greenhouse emission, but are more vulnerable to their impacts, should receive the aid they need to counter the effects of climate change. The 2007 Nobel Peace Prize for AlGore and the Intergovernmental Panel of Climate change for their leadership on critical global warming issues have provided legitimacy for climate justice issues in public discourse. Changing weather patterns show that Earth is getting hotter. Some scientists believe that it happens because the sun is burning more brightly. Other scientists have shown that larger amounts of greenhouse gases are making earth hotter. This heat is dangerous to humans and animals. Increasing temperatures also have led to the outbreak of diseases, such as malaria and dengue fever. These diseases are appearing in areas where they had not been before. Warmer temperatures mean that the animals and insects that carry disease can live in more places. Global warming has led to climate changes. Changing weather patterns have affected plants, animals, and people in many parts of the world. Global warming will also dramatically change overall climatic patterns. With increased warming, evaporation from the oceans and other large water masses may increase, which will lead to higher levels of precipitation. Changing rainfall pattern, coupled with generally more violent weather, will cause increasing incidents of flash floods. Some areas will experience droughts and floods simultaneously (Rustom, 2009).

Global warming is most fundamentally an economic issue

Global Warming is most fundamentally an economic issue through out the world. It has affected the economy of many countries. In some countries where agriculture is harmed, food problems have risen, and in some, weather conditions have changed drastically due to changes in the sea level. At some places, heavy damages have occurred due to storms, blizzards, ice storms, fire storms, dust devil, tropical cyclones etc. In present times, Global

Warming is the main issue of discussion among people of various countries. Governments are trying to take appropriate measures to control the causes of global warming so that the harmful effects can be minimized (Cline, 223).

*Rising food prices* - Global warming is an economic issue and has affected the economy of the world. Due to the problem of Global Warming, the prices of the food material have increased to a great extent. Sometimes, it rains heavily and sometimes, there is a situation of drought or flood. These disasters have resulted into destruction of the crops. The world food production has harmed and due to this destruction, food is available in a very less quantity and consumers are more. There is scarcity of food for people. This has resulted into increment in the prices of the food material (Duraiappah, 197). The decline in the productivity of crops is not because of the variations in rainfall but, the reason is that high-temperature results into dehydration, which prevents pollination and contributes to slow photosynthesis. If the environmental factors remain same then the production of the corn would reduce by 5.5%. Wolfram Schlenker said that if we continue to consume same quantity of seeds and temperature also increases continuously then in future food prices will also increase continuously (Food Prices Increasing From Global Warming: Study, 2011).

*Storm damage* – It is any damage or destruction caused by strong wind, thunderstorms, ice storms, heavy precipitation, hail storm, dust storm, etc. Heading into the future, despite a general warming trend world wide, weather changes due to global warming are likely to be almost as varied as they are widespread. Precipitation (rainfall and snowfall) has increased worldwide. Heavy storms have led to floods and landslides. Hard rain also contributes in reduced soils by washing it away, or erosion. Rising temperature has also dried out soils much more than usual during the summer. Droughts have become widespread. The risk of wildfire is higher. Warmer temperatures have caused glaciers and ice shelves to melt. Melting ice makes the ocean water rise on coasts. Global sea levels have risen by 4 to 10 inches over

the past few years. Drought regions will tend to experience more severe drought and a faster encroachment of desertification. In arid regions, wildfires are expected to become more frequent. Meanwhile, flood-prone regions will typically receive increased precipitation. The ferocity of storms is expected to increase in magnitude and frequency as rainfalls and floods intensify. The recent phenomenon of melting glaciers and icebergs has been largely attributed to the global warming effect (Kurtze, 39).

*Rising sea levels* - In Bangladesh, millions of citizens would lose their homes, including half of the nation's rice land if the sea rose 3.3 feet. Changes in areas where rain falls, and how much rain falls, are an effect of global warming. Less rainfall in many places has led to less ground water. Rising sea levels affect water in coastal areas. The fresh water mixes with salty seawater and becomes polluted. This causes shortage of water used for drinking and to water crops. The U.S. Glacier National Park has one-third as many glaciers as it had in 1850.

Estimates indicate that South America will lose four-fifths of its glaciers in the next fifteen years. The Larsen A and Ross ice shelves broke off and formed the mainland in Antarctica in 1995 and 2000 respectively (Shriver, 76). As the glaciers and icebergs melt, the sea level is expected to rise due to the added water, plus the expanding effect of warmer water molecules. Some climatologists project that the planet's oceans will rise between 4 and 35 inches in the next century. Even a small rise of the oceans will contaminate many freshwater aquifers and submerge coastlines, affecting millions of people. According to a study by the researcher of Florida State University, it is revealed that New York City is in a risky situation due to damages from hurricanes and winter storm. The sea levels of North East coast of US have risen almost twice. John Roach has argued that by the end of this century, the sea level may increase up to three feet. It is argued that global warming is the main reason for melting of icebergs and increasing the sea levels (Global warming: Sea level rises may accelerate due to melting ice sheet, 2011).

*Loss of wildlife* - Global warming is an economic issue through out the world. It has not only affected the food prices, change in the sea levels, storm damages, but also has affected the wild life. The regional effect will also be highly variable. While weather threatens to become furious, deaths of wild life due to heat stroke, natural disasters, and disease are expected to correspondingly become more prevalent. Effect on animal's population, particularly many kinds of polar bears has seen a decrement. The polar bear population in Canada's Western Hudson Bay has dropped by 22% since the late 1980s. Polar Bears are also smaller than they used to be. The North Sea Codfish is also smaller and produces fewer offspring. Sometimes, the weather becomes so hot that it results into deaths of animals (Khatib, 276). The reasons for the death of animals are drought, flood, diseases raised due to global warming, deforestation etc.

#### Self opinion

In my opinion, Global Warming is a serious issue which has effected the environment of the world to a great extent. In my opinion, due to this Global Warming the average temperature of the atmosphere has increased. This Global Warming has resulted into excessive warming and dryness or unpleasant winter. In my opinion, there are various causes of Global Warming, such as increase in population, deforestation, emission of various kinds of gases, like Methane, Carbon Dioxide, Nitrous oxide, Chlorofluorocarbons, water vapor etc, and emission of Greenhouse Gases in excessive Quantities. Sometimes, Greenhouse gases are created by human beings and sometimes it occurs naturally. Another reason of Global Warming is burning of Gas and fuels due to the transportation vehicles. Due to the increase in population, the vehicles have also increased which results into excessive burning of different kinds of fuels, such as petrol, diesel, etc. In my opinion, there are many effects of Global Warming on the world which includes rising sea levels, melting of the ice, excessive high temperature or excessive winter, droughts and heat waves, spread of diseases etc

(Effects of Global Warming, 2011). Globalization has not only affected the world politically, but it has also affected the world socially. I agree with the group, which favors that Global Warming is an issue in the economy. Thus, in my opinion people should try to reduce those practices due to which global warming arises. They should try not to pollute the environment so that people across the world can sustain easily.

### Conclusion

Due to Global Warming, problems like ozone depletion and acid rain are starting to happen that never happened before. Although, most attention is often paid to climatic change resulting from greenhouse gases, there is a whole series of other mechanisms that have the potential of causing climatic change. In contrast to global warming, there is also speculation that anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions could have an alternate effect by causing abrupt cooling of the earth. Countries differ in the opinion on how to proceed with international global warming policy after the 2012 target date set by the Kyoto Protocol. The European Union supports the continuation of a legally binding collective approach in the form of another protocol under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The global warming issues in most developing countries have been intimately linked with efforts to modernize the economy and the energy strategy employed to fuel that modernization. They are producing nearly half of the global carbon dioxide emissions, the industrialized nations are the greatest contributors to the greenhouse effect followed by the developing nations at 38 percent. The human population has been witnessing an increase in record-breaking years as weather extremes become more frequent and intense. Many scientists believe that these trends are early harbingers of the effects of global warming.

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